

Indiana's Salute to Women

2004 Torchbearer Award Winners

Advertising & Marketing Award - Glenda Steele, Plainfield

Nominated by: Chateau Thomas Winery

Glenda Steele began her career in advertising as an executive secretary at an Indianapolis advertising agency in 1968. After a short period of time she was promoted to the public relations department before becoming media director. Glenda left her job to become a stay-at-home and after twelve years she returned to the workforce as a business owner. Glenda is currently president of Steele Communications, Inc. a marketing firm for local businesses. Glenda conducts marketing seminars around the country for Cross County University. With over thirty years' experience in the advertising/marketing industry, Glenda has produced media for the State of Indiana, The Aging Almanac; ITT Corporation; Chateau Thomas Winery; USA Track & Field National Championships and the Indianapolis Colts.

The Arts - Joyce Sommers, Indianapolis

Nominated by: Indianapolis Arts Center

Joyce is the executive director of the Indianapolis Arts Center. During her 34 years at the helm of the Indianapolis Arts Center, Joyce has spearheaded an array of projects that have transformed a once small-scale organization into one of the largest community arts center in the country. Joyce has overcome her own inexperience and an often-hostile climate for executive women and has made a real difference for women of several generations with her pioneering example. Joyce's most recent endeavor has been the development of the ARTSPARK, a 14-acre, multisensory outdoor park that would engage a variety of senses, and a portion specifically designed for blind and visually impaired visitors. Joyce is a visionary who believes that – to have a vision, is having a passion and finding the will and way to follow it is.

Education - Martha Chiscon, West Lafayette

Nominated by: YWCA of Greater Lafayette

Martha O. Chiscon has been an advocate for the equal treatment and representation of women in college athletics, serving on the document drafting committee that brought women into the Big 10 Conference. Martha, formerly an associate dean in the school of science, was a major force behind the creation of Women in Science Programs at Purdue University. "I always hoped to show young women the potential they had, and to encourage them to reach high," she has said. "Those women go on and carry the torch that we lit here." After 36 years in education Martha retired in 2000, she continues to remain active in her community volunteering for the Civic Theatre of Greater Lafayette, and serving on committees for the Purdue University Retirees Association and the Lafayette Noon Rotary Club.

Entrepreneurship - Jane Martin, Bloomington

Nominated by: Indiana University Foundation

With 30 years of experience in public and private equity investing and technology commercialization, Jane H. Martin is a venture capitalist and an entrepreneur who envisions an Indiana that is a magnet for life sciences, high-technology industries, and other state-of-the-art enterprises. Jane is currently the managing director of Capital Investments for Village Ventures, Inc., a capital funds company that focuses on undercapitalized markets with high intellectual capital. Jane serves on the boards of the Kelley School of Business and the School of Informatics at Indiana University. And Jane conducts entrepreneurial and venture capital workshops across the globe.

Financial Services - Mary Bennett, South Bend

Nominated by: Crowe Chizek & Company, LLC

Mary Bennett is a partner at Crowe Group LLP, the holding company for Crowe Chizek and Company LLC. Mary has over 20 years experience in the accounting industry. Mary has led the effort within Crowe Chizek to provide women with innovative solutions for achieving career development and advancements, work/life integration and leadership visibility, support and career advocacy. Working from home, and establishing emergency day-care help are among some of the solutions Mary has developed. Mary serves on the board of the United Way of St. Joseph County and the South Bend Regional Museum of Art. In 2003 Mary was named Woman of the Year by the American Society of Women Accountants.

Health, Medicine & Life Sciences - Patricia Treadwell M.D., Indianapolis

Nominated by: Indiana Chapter – American Academy of Pediatrics

Dr. Treadwell is one of only two Pediatric Dermatologists in the State of Indiana. Pat is currently a professor at the Indiana University School of Medicine where she has worked for 21 years. Dr. Treadwell's focus has been providing quality health care to "undeserved patients." Dr. Treadwell has a passion for academic affairs, especially as they relate to education and cultural diversity. "My life's goal is to work to try to eliminate health care disparities." Dr. Treadwell was named "Top Doctor" in the publication "America's Top Doctors" in 2002, 2003 and 2004. Dr. Treadwell has chaired the Dermatology Section of both the American Academy of Pediatrics and the National Medical Association.

Journalism & Communications - Lucy Himstedt, Evansville

Nominated by: Neighborhood Educational Enrichment Development Site (NEEDS)

"To me, civic journalism is going out to people to get stories rather than sitting in your newsroom opening press releases and listening to the scanner..." Lucy Himstedt is the general manager of 14 WFIE Evansville an NBC affiliate. Lucy started her journalism path as editor of her high school's newspaper and landed her first television position while a junior in college. For years, management positions for women in the broadcast journalism field were few and far between. Lucy has worked her way up the management ladder to become the first female general manager in her company's 15-station chain.

Labor Advocate - Cordelia Lewis-Burks, Indianapolis

Nominated by: Eastside Baptist Church

Cordelia's accomplishments are serving and educating women, training women to impart their skills, building strong confidence so women can help themselves, and empowering others. She focuses on women of all ages, races from all walks of life, working with families through the labor movement, and African-Americans and other minorities. Her commitment to continue to provide leadership and dignity for women in the struggle for equality and economic justice is unparalleled. Cordelia believes, the best thing to give your enemy is forgiveness; to an opponent, tolerance; to your spouse, your complete love, to a friend, your loyalty, to your child, a good example; to a father, deference, to your mother, conduct that will make her proud, to your union, service to its members; to yourself, respect; to man and womankind, charity. Cordelia endeavors that her legacy will be, she inspired others to serve. Cordelia is director of politics and legislation for AFSCME International Union.

The Law - Virginia O'Leary, Oakland City

Nominated by: Evansville Bar Association

Virginia O'Leary, Esq. has spent her life helping to remove barriers to equality. For more than thirty years she has represented women and minorities seeking equal employment opportunity. Many of Virginia's clients were unable to afford representation and she has often provided services pro bono. Virginia has led successful efforts to integrate women into the workforce in a number of jobs formerly denied to women; skilled labor apprenticeship programs; carpenters, painters and dry wall finishers; the coal mines in Southern Indiana and numerous others.

Social Services - Ana Guisti, Fort Wayne

Nominated by: Center for Nonviolence

Ana Giusti, a native of Peru, is from Ft. Wayne, Indiana. Ana is a founding member of the Hispanic Leadership Coalition (HLC) and helped develop a largely successful Grassroots Leadership Development Program to expose Hispanic/Latino people to civic and social resources in the community and groom a new generation of multilingual and culturally diverse leaders. She has pushed for more accessible medical care for new immigrants and works with Catholic Charities and Park Center to make mental health services accessible to non-English speaking populations. She is the Latina Coordinator for the Center for Nonviolence, where she meets with 35 or more women each week in the victims support group. A survivor of domestic violence herself, Ana is passionate about educating and protecting battered Latina women in her community.

Sports & Fitness - Marjorie Albohm, Indianapolis

Nominated by: Indiana Athletic Trainers Association

Marjorie was one of the very first females nationally certified as an athletic trainer, and was the first in the State of Indiana. She was the first female inducted into the Indiana Athletic Trainers Association Hall of Fame and was one of the first two females inducted into the National Athletic Trainers Association Hall of Fame. Marjorie was instrumental in developing sports medicine coverage for amateur athletic events sponsored by the Indiana Sports Corporation and was appointed Director of Athletic Training for the Pan American Games, and served as Medical Director for many other amateur sporting events. Her many research projects, publications, speaking engagements and volunteer activities at national and international athletic competitions help bring awareness and credibility to women in athletics and athletic training.

Volunteerism - Sue Webster, Crane

Nominated by: Hoosier Hills Chapter – Federally Employed Women

As a Public Affairs Officer for NSWCC Crane, Ms. Webster manages community outreach programs including school partnership activities that provide tutors to the local schools, tours for students, and an annual Science & Engineering Fair with over 200 participants in grades 7-12. She volunteers her time answering the crisis line for the Middle Way House, a shelter for abused women, in Bloomington. She is actively involved on the Board of Directors for Leadership Bloomington-Monroe County Alumni, which coordinates an annual fundraiser for the homeless and annual participation on the MLK Day *A Day On, Not a Day Off* project. Sue is a lifetime member of Federally Employed Women (FEW), an organization working to eliminate sexual discrimination and the advancement of women in Government where she served as President. Under Sue's leadership, FEW participated in *Take Our Daughters to Work Day*, Girl Scout Exploratorium and a scholarship program for members.

Women in Government - Kathy L. Davis, Indianapolis

Nominated by: Office of the Lieutenant Governor

Kathy Davis, a graduate from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology with a Bachelor of Science in mechanical engineering, and a Master's degree from Harvard Business School, located to Columbus, Indiana where she worked with Cummins Engine Company. Since then, she has been successful in several areas of government leadership. In 1989, she joined the Indiana Department of Transportation as a Deputy Commissioner where she was responsible for statewide transportation planning. From 1995-1997 Lt. Governor Davis served as State Budget Director, where she forecasted revenues and managed state spending. In 1997, Lt. Governor Davis became Secretary for the Indiana Family and Social Services Administration, where she was responsible for a \$4 billion annual budget and 11,000 employees, and in 1999 she managed the start-up of Indiana 21st Century Research and Technology Fund, a \$50 million fund designed to promote technology and economic development. While serving as controller for the City of Indianapolis, Kathy Davis was appointed to Lt. Governor of the State of Indiana, the first woman to ever hold this position.

Youth Mentor - Mary Joan Dickson, Cedar Lake

Nominated by: All Golfcar, Inc.

Mary Joan Dickson has been active with mentoring youth throughout her adult life. Mary has coached girls' softball teams in Cedar Lake, Indiana as well as serving as a coach for other programs in the Catholic Youth Organization (CYO). After 15 years of coaching basketball, she received the Father Moody Award for her service to youth. Mary believes she is a servant to her community, and strives to be a role model for young women. She has served on the Cedar Lake Junior Miss committee for nearly 14 years, as well as the Cedar Lake Easter Egg Hunt committee. She is currently active and supportive of many youth organizations in her community.

Family/Child Advocate - Donna Gore Olson, Indianapolis

Nominated by: Community Education and Child Advocacy Department

Donna Gore Olsen, along with three other individuals, founded the Indiana Parent Information Network (IPIN) in 1987. Prior to any funding for IPIN, Donna served as the Executive Director and ran this organization out of her home with small donations from her family. Sixteen years later, IPIN has received several federal grants for programs and remains a beacon for Indiana parents of children with chronic illnesses or disabilities, a place where parents can turn for information, resources and support. Donna also championed lifetime coverage for children with cystic fibrosis through the Children with Special Health Care Services, and has served as a member of the Governor's Planning Council for People with Disabilities. In addition to IPIN, she continues to be active with several organizations and several committees championing family and children.

Mental Health Advocate - Cecilia Weber, Lafayette

Nominated by: YWCA of Greater Lafayette

For nine years Cecilia Weber has dedicated herself to community service through the National Alliance for the Mentally Ill. She founded the NAMI West Central Indiana division and now volunteers as its executive director. She has initiated and obtained funding for many programs, most recently a Crisis Intervention Team in Tippecanoe County. Some of the goals will be to train police officers on mental illness and make mental health service providers available to work with police – and ultimately, to see that the mentally ill are treated fairly and with dignity.

Non-Traditional Career - Andrea McCord, Bedford

Nominated by: Lawrence County Juvenile Drug Court

Ms. McCord, currently acting as Lawrence Circuit Court Judge, serves as the Lawrence County Referee which is the presiding officer over all juvenile, paternity, child support and children in need of services in both Lawrence and Jackson Counties. A female in a predominantly male position, she is also responsible for creating and overseeing all juvenile programming and creating partnerships between the court system and the community. Andrea was the recipient of the Richard G. Lugar Excellence in Public Service Series Award for 1998-1999 and the Governor's Task Force for a Drug Free Indiana Award in August 2001.

ICW Lifetime Achievement - Jane Fribley, Indianapolis

Nominated by: Indiana Women's History Association

Jane Stout Fribley, a retired educator, is one of the founders of the Indiana Women's History Association (IWhA), which was established in 1984. In the 70's Jane affiliated with the national Religious Women for the Equal Rights Amendment (ERA), who asked her to represent their interest in getting the ERA ratified by the Indiana General Assembly. A member of longstanding in Church Women United, she represented that group as well in the halls of the Indiana General Assembly. After Indiana ratified the ERA amendment in 1977, the ERA coalition (and other interested partners) then addressed other needed legislation relating to women's issues. The Uniform Marital Property Tax Act was enacted in 1979. Legislation providing funds to establish shelters for abused women, and aid to the displaced homemaker were among other laws she advocated.

Woman of Promise Award - Alexandra Holderman, Mishawaka

Nominated by: Indiana Commission on Community Service and Volunteerism

Alexandra Holderman is a 10 year old fifth-grader at LaSalle Elementary School in Mishawaka, has collected and delivered more than 1,200 bundles of baby clothing, blankets, diapers, and other supplies for infants born to needy single and teenaged mothers. When Alexandra was 5 years old, she saw a young mother carrying a baby dressed only in a T-shirt and diaper in the middle of winter, this inspired her to collecting and assembling what she calls “baby bundles.”

Community Spirit Award – Charlotte Zeitlow, Bloomington

Nominated by: Middle Way House

Charlotte Zietlow, a former educator, is currently the Economic Development Coordinator for Middle Way House in Bloomington, Indiana. Ms. Zietlow was the first woman to ever serve on and as President of the Bloomington City Council and the Monroe County Commissioners. While serving on the city council, she established the Bloomington Commission on the Status of Women. She is a member of the Indiana Office of Women’s Health Advisory Council, and chaired the 2000 Institute for Women’s Policy Research Indiana Status of Women Report. Charlotte is a life member of the American Association of University Women (AAUW), and was the charter and founding member of the Indiana Women’s Network for Political Action. She has received numerous awards and recognitions for her contributions to her community.

Hoosier Ambassador Award – Judy Singleton, Indianapolis

Nominated by: Richard G. Lugar Excellence in Public Service Series

Judy Singleton, co-founded the Richard G. Lugar Excellence in Public Service Series in 1990. She has been credited with the expansion of the Lugar Series as it has become a national prototype and has been replicated in 17 states across the country. Through her dedication to the Lugar Series, hundreds of women have received the training and are changing the political landscape and making a difference in the civic life of our state. In the mid 90’s, Ms. Singleton was editor of the Indianapolis Woman Magazine. She was a founding member of Network of Women in Business and was honored as Businesswoman of the Year in 1984. Judy is the author of “*Indiana’s Trailblazing Women*” calendar, and is currently a women’s leadership consultant for the Republican National Committee.

Trailblazer Award – Myra Selby, Indianapolis

Nominated by: Community Hospitals of Indiana

Myra Selby served as a Justice on the Indiana Supreme Court from January 1995 to 1999, becoming the first woman and the first African-American to serve on this high court. While on the Court, Ms. Selby participated in several landmark decisions involving state property taxes, insurance and tort law reform and she authored more than 100 majority opinions receiving national recognition. Ms. Selby spearheaded efforts to increase the Court’s accessibility to the general public by expanding education and outreach activities. In 1999, she was appointed by the Indiana Supreme Court to chair the Indiana Supreme Court Commission on Race and Gender Fairness. The Commission is charged with ensuring fairness and diversity in the legal system. She is currently a partner at Ice Miller Law Firm in Indianapolis.

Heart of Indiana Award – Julia Carson, Indianapolis

Nominated by: Planned Parenthood of Indiana

Representative Julia Carson is only the third woman to be elected to the U.S. House of Representatives from Indiana. Prior to her election to Congress, Julia Carson served her community in various positions. She was a member of the Indiana General Assembly where she gave unfailing support to Indiana’s successful ratification of the Equal Rights Amendment, supported legislation to improve women’s economic status, such as the bill she advocated that included household workers in the minimum wage. Ms. Carson also served as Trustee of Center Township in Indianapolis where she instituted aggressive measures to help the

city's homeless, and trimmed the inflated welfare rolls by imposing new roles that required able bodied recipients to work or attend school as a condition of receiving poor relief.